

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed February 9, 2006, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 95,406 to Allen. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Allen in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,645,304 to Thrasher. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Allen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,665 to Hurdle, Jr. Claims 1 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,779,117 to Roberson in view of Allen.

Claims 3 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, the Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 34-36 were allowed.

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 16 and 17. Claims 19-33 were previously canceled. Claims 2, 5, 9, 12 and 18 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 34-36. Additionally, a typographical error has been corrected in claim 2.

Claims 37-42 have been newly added, and each depend from allowed claims 35 or 36. Claims 37 and 40 contain the limitations found in claim 2. Claims 38 and 41 contain the limitations found in now canceled claim 3. Claim 39 contains the limitations found in now canceled claim 16. Claim 42 contains the limitations found in now canceled claim 7.

Therefore, claims 2, 5, 6, 9-15, 18 and 34-42 are pending for examination. Claims 34-36 have been allowed. All other pending claims depend either directly or indirectly to the allowed claims, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowed base claims.

CONCLUSION

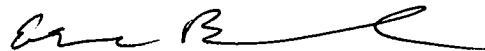
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/614,297
Amdt. dated May 8, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3724

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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